

10 Great Places to Enjoy Historic Trees

Arbor Day (celebrated the last Friday in April) is a perfect excuse to plant a sapling or just appreciate those big beauties in your backyard. Jeffrey Meyer, author of the new *America's Famous and Historic Trees: From George Washington's Tulip Poplar to Elvis Presley's Pin Oak* (Houghton Mifflin, \$30), has made it his mission to locate the country's historic trees and cultivate their descendants for future generations. In his book, he explains how to procure historic saplings and offers tips on growing trees from seeds. He shares here his picks for US trees to visit. To nominate a historic tree for legal protection, visit American Forests' National Register of Historic Trees at www.historictrees.org or call 800.320.8733.

Amelia Earhart Sugar Maple

223 North Terrace, Atchison KS

"Growing up in a typical white house in Atchison (now the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum), young Amelia and her sister shared a bedroom that looks out onto this large sugar maple. One can imagine the propeller-like seeds spinning in the air, setting her young imagination on fire."

John F. Kennedy Post Oak

*Arlington National Cemetery,
Arlington VA*

"Inspired by the tranquil spring beauty at Arlington, John F. Kennedy once remarked to his brother Robert, 'It's so beautiful, I could stay here forever.' Six months later, it was that remark that inspired the grave site selection of the slain president, beneath this towering post oak tree."

Moreton Bay Fig

Off Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills CA

"At the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Rodeo Drive is one of the most expensive and beautiful shopping centers in the world. Via Rodeo, a cobblestone pedestrian street, was the first street built when the city was incorporated in 1914 and it was designed to spare this huge tree — at least 14-15 feet in diameter."

Eisenhower Green Ash

208 East Day St., Denison TX

"Here, in a humble white clapboard house, Dwight D. Eisenhower was born. The large green ash tree would have been a substantial size at the time, and it stands tall to this day."



Enjoy Historic Trees *(continued)*

Gettysburg Address Honey Locust

*Gettysburg National Military Park,
Gettysburg PA*

"Lincoln stood near this honey locust tree and delivered the stirring Gettysburg Address. The trees at Gettysburg witnessed the whole battle... so most of the trees you look at are fairly awesome. I like to think that these trees must have many memories."

Mark Twain Cave Bur Oak

*Highway 79 So.,
Hannibal MO*

"As a boy, Samuel Clemens and friends had adventures in Simms Cave in Hannibal. The days would be recalled when he wrote, as Mark Twain, of the adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. This tree is right outside the cave."

Jacksonville Treaty Live Oak

Treaty Oak Park, Jacksonville FL

"Legend holds that European settlers met with native Timucuan tribes to discuss peaceful coexistence in the shade of this massive, 200+ year live oak, which is the largest tree on this list. The tree was saved by Jesse Ball DuPont and now is surrounded by a lovely park downtown."

Elvis Presley Pin Oak

Graceland, Memphis TN

"Lining the driveway to Graceland are towering pin oak trees. Elvis must have loved trees, because he used to stand under them, just enjoying them. He also used them as a natural buffer between himself and his fans here at Graceland. The oak trees completely overpower the house."

George Washington Tulip Poplar

*Mount Vernon,
Mount Vernon VA*

"George Washington, a prolific tree planter, incorporated tulip poplar trees on the western lawn of Mount Vernon, which faces the Potomac River. The bowling green was a long row of trees, a long alley, for walking under after a big meal."

Lewis and Clark Cottonwood

Near Washburn ND

"Returning from 2 years of westward exploration,

Lewis and Clark camped beneath these cottonwood trees with Mandan Indians. When the tribesmen attempted to take horses in the night, a brief skirmish occurred." The tree is "70 miles from the closest road (south of the intersection of highways 83 and 200), and it takes some doing to get to it, but it is my favorite."

